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To Those Who Intend to Study Medicine.

AS THE CHIRONIAN reaches many of the literary colleges in the country, we want to give a little advice to you who intend making the "healing art" your life study. To begin with, we take it for granted you want to learn that system of medicine that will effect the greatest percentage of cures. This is what we claim for Homœopathy, and what statistics prove.

Do you know what Homœopathy is? Do you know of its achievements in the hospitals of the great cities and in the private practice of its adherents? If you do not, then you should investigate and be familiar with its results before you decide what therapeutic law you will follow and make your own.

It is an indisputable fact that in all great cities the Homœopathic Hospitals show a smaller death-rate than those of the opposite

school. In regard to the conduct of our insane asylums, the same is true. A greater percentage of cures is shown, and a smaller death-rate.

"It is easy to claim all this," you say? Yes; but we can prove it. "Figures don't lie." Look at this table of statistics.

Fourteen years ago a well-known life-insurance company of New York city made a table of the comparative death-rates under the different methods of treatment, to ascertain whether the claims of the Homœopathic school were well founded:

	ALLOPATHIC.	HOMŒOPATHIC.
BOSTON.	Losses.	Losses.
1870.....	17.76	10.05
1871.....	14.76	8.25
1872.....	19.63	8.26
NEW YORK.		
1870.....	15.75	9.00
1871.....	15.78	7.97
PHILADELPHIA.*		
1872.....	19.03	12.87
NEWARK, N. J.		
1872.....	27.54	12.92
1873.....	15.39	9.56
BROOKLYN.		
1872.....	24.08	11.62
1873.....	21.56	9.95
Gen'l Average..	17.88	10.02

These facts are from public official records, and are correct.

A man does not select a profession as a plaything; he wants to know what he can do with it. Here is what you can do with Homœopathy. Are you going to study medicine? If so, then remember these facts. Our college facilities are equal to any, and as to what they will be, we refer you to the preceding number of this journal.

* Year of the terrible small-pox epidemic.

The Sexual Relations as Causes of Uterine Diseases.

CONJUGAL ONANISM AND KINDRED SINS.

BY WM. GOODELL, A. M., M. D.

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CERTAIN causes of uterine disease there are, which I would gladly leave unnoticed, for it is hard, in acceptable language, even to allude to them. But so wide-spread are the evils resulting from them, that to pass them by would be a flagrant sin of omission. "Two things come not back," said the Caliph Omar, "the sped arrow and the spoken word." Deeply impressed by the wisdom of this saying, I shall try to speak on these delicate subjects as never to regret what I have spoken.

Arguing from a strictly practical and not from a sentimental point of view, but with all reverence, I hold that the love interchanged between man and woman is no mere operation of the mind, no sheer intellectual process. However pure this passion may be, it is needfully two-fold in its nature. It is an alloy, made up, like ourselves, of body and mind; the grosser mould so interfluxed with the more ethereal, that the one finds its most passionate expression in the fruition of the other. Abstract love between the sexes can not, therefore, exist in any other sense than that engendered by blood ties. Forgetful of this absolute law of our being, sentimentalists have judged too harshly of Abelard, and lavished too one-sided a sympathy upon Heloise. Without further comment, the ante-nuptial relations, at least such as custom commonly sanctions in this land—and, I believe, in no other—are, therefore, when prolonged, very disturbing elements to a young girl's health. Long engagements, by keeping up a wearing nervous erethism, are not only recognized, but even classified by alienists, as one of the causes of insanity in women. Much more frequently the nervous exaltation is spent upon the reproductive organs; for there follows an awakening

of sense, which is not, as in man, appeased by the distractions of business pursuits. Uterine trouble from this source, any open-eyed physician will over and over again see. Now, it is true that in love affairs the physician must be no meddler; match-making is certainly not his business. But, as a tried and valued friend, as a brother beloved, he can speak out when others may not even hint. Or, when consulted by an anxious mother about symptoms in her daughter, plainly referable to the reproductive organs, he can disclose the cause, and thus be the means of hastening on the cure.

If the caresses of lovers are prejudicial to good health, every like relation between the sexes must be exposed to like dangers. In too many rural districts, and in the lower classes of citizens, such license is tolerated in the social intercourse between the youth of each sex, as must be destructive both to good health and to good morals. But since it is not to my present purpose to appear as a social reformer, I shall confine my remarks to the hygienic aspect of the subject. The "old folks" are shelved too soon. Young people are left too much to themselves, and thrown too much together. Their social gatherings are too rarely presided over by their mothers or their seniors. As a very natural consequence, their games become coarse, their forfeits immodest, and little by little this freedom from restraint is liable, finally, to degenerate into such gross familiarities as would be improper even between affianced lovers. An unnatural sexual excitement is thus kept up, which must do physical harm. Of the moral harm I say nothing. In this matter I am plainly at a loss to see how a physician can interfere in any other way than by setting a good example in the order and decorum of his own household. A nimbler wit than mine may work out some better way; if so, his be the credit; I do but throw out hints.

The excesses of the honey-moon journey, conjoined with its fatigues and its discomforts, are too often the starting-point of uterine disease. Here, again, will the family physician delicately proffer his counsel. In chosen words he can hint at moderation in all things, and sug-

gest the avoidance of the usual exhausting round of travel and sight-seeing. Such words will then, indeed, be words spoken in season. He must, still further, take cognizance of the sexual relations between husband and wife, relations which, when abused, are productive of much mischief. All excess in that direction he will discountenance. Unmastered importunity and too submissive an affection must be met by separate beds, by uncommunicating rooms, and if need be, by strong expostulation. Criminal abortion he must denounce, and that boldly, if he values the health and happiness of his fellow-creatures, and a clear conscience before God and before man.

But there are yet other secret sins which, like the plague of the frogs, creep into our "houses, and bed-chambers, and beds"—sins which, although vile and filthy, concern us as physicians. The wise son of Sirach has laid down the abstract truth, that "the knowledge of wickedness is not wisdom;" and yet, for the correct interpretation of disease, we must intrepidly search out their causes, whether moral or physical, however loathsome or impure they may be. Receive, then, these necessary supplements to your instruction, in the attitude of true students; for to such the knowledge of immorality can not be immoral.

Early in the practice of your profession you will, I am sorry to say, find out that many of your patients, who should be the heads of large families, are practicing detestable arts to avoid offspring. You will, on the other hand, be approached, perhaps indeed be hard pressed, by husbands, and for the matter of that, by wives also, for some method of congress unattended with the risk of impregnation. You will also be consulted for the mental and bodily infirmities resulting from these and other sexual sins. You must not, therefore, go out into the world ignorant of these evils, and consequently incompetent to grapple with them. It is, however, so hard a task, to discuss such subjects in acceptable language, that I confess to some squeamishness, and would much rather refer you to some suitable text-books, were there any. But, unfortunately, there are none on these

subjects, although our land is flooded with a prurient literature treating of the conjugal relations. Impudent quacks and men of battered reputations must not be your guides; far better is it for you to learn a new thrust of fence from a friendly foil, than from the stab of a foe.

My purpose is less to discuss the moral obliquity of these secret sins of the community than to show the resulting disorders. Yet I shall not limit myself to the one point of view, for the conjugal relation is two-fold in its nature; it has a moral as well as a physical expression, but so interwoven that it is hardly possible formally to dissociate them. Nor would it be wise for a physician so to do; for who so well as he can determine how far a disturbance in the one will affect the other? Moreover, so irreparable is the moral and physical degradation resulting from these vicious sexual relations, so damaging are they to good health and to good morals, so fatal to national prosperity, that I cannot go far astray in assaulting them with every available weapon.

You have all had a religious training, and respect the teachings of the Bible; let us see what light they throw upon the conjugal relation. The first words addressed by God to our first parents conveyed the following blessing and command: "And God blessed them, and God said unto them, Be fruitful, and multiply, and replenish the earth." The same blessing and the same command, in precisely the same words, were twice given to Noah. Abraham and Ishmael received the same blessing, and so did Isaac thrice in one chapter. Laban's household sent away their sister Rebekah with the same blessing. "Give me children, or else I die," was the cry of Rachael. Jacob called his offspring "the children which God hath graciously given thy servant;" and the same patriarch, when a-dying, raised himself upon his staff in order with greater solemnity to invoke upon his beloved son Joseph "blessings of the breasts and of the womb." The Psalmist declares that "children are an heritage of the Lord; and the fruit of the womb is his reward;" while the curse pronounced upon idolators by an indignant prophet is, "Give them a miscarrying womb and

dry breasts." In Exodus we read, if a man "take him another wife, her food, her raiment, and her duty of marriage, shall he not diminish." Throughout the Old Testament you will find that fruitfulness was regarded by Jew and Gentile as the greatest of earthly blessings, and that, as such, it was the reward of the righteous, and, as such, it was withheld from the wicked. How a profanation of this blessing was regarded by God, you all know from the history of Onan, who was slain for disobeying a Divine command by resorting to one of the "preventive measures" in vogue in the present day. Again, in the New Testament we find St. Paul giving the following advice to the married Christians at Corinth: "Defraud ye not one the other, . . . that Satan tempt you not for your incontinency. Let the husband render unto the wife due benevolence; and likewise also the wife unto the husband," etc. I have not the time to quote all that the apostle says upon the subject; but, mind you, this advice was given in troublous and persecuting times—times in which the temptation was great to prevent the increase of families—times to which the words of our Saviour were especially applicable: "Woe unto them who are with child, and to them that give suck in those days."

To these Scriptural precepts and blessings you may perhaps object, that they were designed for special purposes, and that, as such, they can not concern the present generation of men. While unwilling to admit this, I reply that there is a natural religion as well as a revealed religion: the one, God's book; the other, Nature's—a "Second Bible," as Bacon happily terms it. You have heard what the one enjoins; now listen to the teachings of the other. Let me turn to our Case-Book and read out the history of one of our clinical patients. Some of you have seen her in my private room, but, for obvious reasons, I have not brought her before the assembled class.

A. B., aged thirty, married ten years ago, has had two children, one of them dying shortly after birth. Six years ago she and her husband came to this country and opened a small store. She was at that time in robust health, "very

happy," and cheerfully waited upon their customers. For no assignable reason, her health soon began to fail, and six weeks ago she came for advice in a truly pitiable plight. To use her own language, she was "very weak and miserable;" "crying all the time;" "can not remember anything for ten minutes;" "forgets the price of the goods in her husband's store;" was "constantly mislaying needful articles, and making mistakes in making change." She was "very suspicious," fancied "that everybody was against her and talking about her," and confessed to being extremely jealous of her husband. In addition to these mental disturbances, she eructates large quantities of wind, is obstinately costive, has violent palpitations of the heart, and can not go up one flight of stairs without getting out of breath. She often staggers, loses consciousness, and sometimes falls from vertigo; is annoyed by a persistent *globus hystericus*, and has no appetite whatever. The catemenia appear every three weeks, are abundant, but unaccompanied with pain. She has, however, a constant pain in the sacral and in the left inframammary region; also a frequent desire to pass water, and much "bearing-down" of all the pelvic organs.

Without wearying you with every detail, in one word, the subjective symptoms of uterine disease, which she presented, were more numerous and more marked than I had ever before seen in one patient. In making a vaginal examination—to which she reluctantly submitted—I was struck with the excessive sensitiveness of her tissues, and with the uncontrollable excitement under which she labored—symptoms hitherto in my experience limited to unmarried women addicted to self-abuse. I found the vagina crimson and hot, the womb tender to the touch, intensely congested, somewhat prolapsed, and in the first degree of retroflexion. The sound, passing through a patulous os internum, caused much pain at the fundus, and a slight hemorrhage upon its withdrawal. The os externum was surrounded by a collar of erosion, and plugged with the characteristic glairy secretion. Finally, she flinched from any pressure, however light, over each ovarian region. The

significance of these symptoms I explained to her, but I need not to you.

She then took me aside, and, unsolicited told me her history. Being in straitened circumstances upon their arrival in this country, and withal anxious to lay by money, she and her husband agreed to have no more children. With this view, she had submitted to the following fraudulent and one-sided expedient: at the height of the orgasm, the husband withdraws from her person, and thus sins as Onan sinned. For six years, such incomplete coitions had been practiced, usually as often as five times, and never less frequently than three times a week. She had at first attributed her ill health to change of climate, but, quite recently had begun to suspect its true cause, from an unexpected improvement in all her symptoms, during the casual absence of her husband on business.

Prompted by this suspicion, she came to consult me as to its correctness, and actually, in case it was confirmed, to learn from me some other preventive method of congress. I explained to her the sinfulness of her conduct, and urged her to receive the approaches of her husband in a natural way, as otherwise nothing could be done for her. This, however, she flatly refused to do, saying she would much prefer a separation, or even a divorce from him. Upon inquiry, I learned that her "husband was not the man he used to be;" that he was morose and dyspeptic, complaining much of general weakness and loss of appetite. Two weeks later, she came with much glee to say that by a mutual agreement this incomplete act of coition was in future to be limited to twice a week, and that she was now ready for treatment—whereupon I refused to have any thing more to do with her; and I have not seen her since.

You have heard, gentlemen, this sad history—the history of a woman whose health is shattered, whose morals are perverted, whose mind is verging toward insanity. Now, what physical law of her being, what moral obligation has been broken? Why has Nature been so resentful, and why these fierce reprisals? These are questions which press for an answer.

The sexual instinct has been given to man

for the perpetuation of his species; but, in order to refine this gift and to set limits to its abuse, it has been wisely ordered that a purely intellectual quality—that of love—should find its most passionate expression in the gratification of this instinct. Dissociate the one from the other, and man sinks below the level of the brute. Destroy the reciprocity of the union, and marriage is no longer an equal partnership, but a sensual usurpation on the one side, and a loathing submission on the other. Consider the moral effects of such shameful manoeuvres; wedlock lapses into licentiousness; the wife is degraded into a mistress, love and affection change into aversion and hate. Without suffering some penalty, man cannot disturb the conditions of his well-being or trespass beyond its limitations. Let him traverse her physical laws, and Nature exacts a forfeit; dare he violate his moral obligations, an offended Deity stands ready to avenge them. That this law is immutable, witness, from the history read to you, the estrangement between husband and wife; witness his ill health and ill temper, and the wreck of body and of mind to which she has been reduced.

The husband suffers mentally, because no *man* can behave in so unmanly a way without a keen sense of self-abasement, without being stung by the chastisement of remorse. Dishonor the body, the temple of the soul, and you dishonor the soul. Again, by this cowardly recoil, his enjoyment in the act is so blunted that he is tempted to seek elsewhere for those pleasures which are denied him at home. Further, he suffers physically, because, although he passes through the crisis of the sexual act and completes it in that sense, yet, owing to his withdrawal from the person of his wife, just before the moment of ejaculation, this acme of the orgasm, by the lack of the normal and needful adjuvant—viz., the rugous and constricting vagina—is not sufficiently prolonged to wholly empty the *vasa deferentia*. Enough of the semen remains behind to tease his organs and to kindle in him desires too importunate to tolerate any great self-control. He is thus goaded on to such sexual excesses as no brain

nor brawn can long support; for a constant drain on the life-giving fluid implies a constant expenditure of nerve-force. Early exhaustion and premature decrepitude will inevitably ensue if this practice of "conjugal onanism" be persisted in. Nor is this name a misnomer; for there is no essential difference between this habit and that of masturbation. Both injure in precisely the same way, and for precisely the same reasons. It does, indeed, seem to be the law of Nature that man must suffer the punishment of the onanist if he parts with the "seed of another life" in any other way than in that by which it tends to become fruitful.

The wife suffers the most, because she both sins and is sinned against. She sins, because she shirks those responsibilities for which she was created. She is sinned against because she is defrauded of her rights. Lawful congress, completely performed, so far satisfies an imperious instinct that attendant local congestions are at once relieved, and to great nervous excitement succeeds a calm repose of body and mind. On the other hand, conjugal onanism provokes in her desires which keenly solicit that very gratification which is denied by the nature of the act. The excessive stimulation of the whole reproductive apparatus remains unappeased. A nervous super-excitation continues, which keeps up, as in our patient, a sexual excitement and a hyperesthesia of the parts. By forfeiting her conjugal rights, she does not reach that timely conjuncture which loosens the tension of the coarctative muscles of her erectile tissues. Hence, the congestive orgasm of the vagina, womb, oviducts, and of the ovaries, does not at once pass away, but persists for some time—perhaps is not wholly effaced before another incomplete coition brings a fresh installment. Thus arise engorgements, erosions, and displacements of the womb, and inflammation of its appendages, accompanied, of course, by all those protean mental and physical manifestations which I have so often pointed out to you. She takes distorted views of life and of the marriage relation, and harbors resentment against her husband as the author of all her ills.

But we have not yet done with the train of

evils. The uterine, ovarian, and vaginal plexus of veins inosculate freely with the hemorrhoidal vessels, and consequently with the *venæ portarum*. Hence, the turgescence of the one group of blood-vessels leads to the engorgement of the other, and the persistent congestion of the intrapelvic veins determines portal obstruction and conversely. The great vascularity, and the erectile structure of the reproductive organs, favor this turgescence. As a consequence, functional derangements of the liver are commonly associated with uterine disease. No gynecologist has failed to observe the alternate relation of cause and effect between these two conditions. To this interdependence may we refer the costiveness, the vertigo, the loss of appetite, the dyspeptic melancholy, and the suspicious nature of our patient.

Again—for the ill effects of such practices accumulate—the very barrenness aimed at by these criminal expedients is in itself a source of disease. In sterile women the absence of pregnancy and suckling prevents a break in the constantly-recurring catamenia, and the physiological congestion of the womb augmented by the sexual congestions are, by ceaseless repetition, liable to become pathological. Add to this the unrelieved congestions arising from incomplete intercourse, and a prolific source of uterine and of hepatic disorders is at once manifest.

I wish, in this relation, to call your attention to another source of sexual trouble for which your advice will be sought. Either from undue ardor on the part of the husband, or from the too frigid nature of the wife, the sexual crisis with him is over before hers is reached. Such misadventures are productive not only of unhappiness, but also of disease. Here, as in conjugal onanism, the female reproductive organs are kept in a state of congestion, which is followed by like ill results, the difference being only in degree, and not in kind. For this lack of reciprocation—not, however, necessarily fatal to impregnation—you will counsel to the husband the practice of some self-denial as regards the frequency of congress, and greater self-denial during the act, together with a recourse to such promptings as

a warm and an honorable affection may suggest.

But, to return from a digression, there are other artifices—nay, even equipments borrowed from the brothel—for the purpose of avoiding conception, which may well alarm publicists and statesmen. For, vile as they are, they have received the open sanction of those English political economists who forget that crime and vice and human suffering in their land are due less to “over-population and large families” than to absenteeism, to the laws of primogeniture and of entail, to the grasping avarice of the rich, and to the intemperance, ignorance and shiftlessness of the poor. All these expedients operate, by directly preventing the access of the spermatozoa to the uterine cavity, by destroying them, or by washing them away; but they are all hurtful equally to mind and to body. If it is hazardous for an overheated stomach to receive a glass of water—its natural and accustomed beverage—how much more will it be to deluge the over-congested womb with such foreign fluids as simple or astringent injections! On the other hand, those mechanical contrivances for limiting the range of the spermatozoa so blunt the pleasure as to lead to unfaithfulness or to their disuse. Moreover, in common with other teachers, I am old-fashioned enough to believe that pregnancy is a needful condition to healthful and happy marriages, and further, that coition is innocuous only when complete in both husband and wife, and when the germinal fluid bathes her reproductive organs. It is not always possible to trace the relation between cause and effect; some link in the chain of sequences often eludes our search. The *modus operandi* of many of our most common drugs is not known, and yet our confidence in them is not shaken because the counter-weight of our experience is greater. Therefore, for no other reason than that the common experience sanctions this postulate, I believe that the semen itself, aided of course by the general relaxation following the crisis, has a special property of allaying the congestive orgasm and the vascular turgescence of the venereal excitement. Be the mode what it may, at any rate so much disorganization of

uterine structure takes place in those women who have kept themselves sterile that they are rarely free from some womb disorder; and when, as they advance in life, they yearn to have children, they find to their dismay that they cannot conceive. Often and often have I been begged by childless women, now longing to become mothers, to undo the mischief caused by such practices.

For the limitation of families, some conscientious political economists recommend absolute abstinence. But, if the “nervous erethism” of long engagements is assigned by alienists as a common cause of insanity, and by physicians as a frequent source of uterine disturbance, what derangement of body and of mind may not spring from this forced continence! Perhaps, however, we are wasting words on impossibilities. There is a wide-spread delusion, as old as the art of medicine itself, that intercourse, after the tenth day following the cessation of the menses is not attended with the risk of impregnation. But ovulation is not necessarily menstruation; and he who constructs domestic time-tables or trusts to his almanac will find that accidents can happen in the best-regulated family. If he protract the time of intercourse to a still later period after menstruation, he is liable to inseminate an ovum near the os uteri, and thereby produce placenta previa. If he perform the act during menstruation, he is likely to bring about a pelvic hematocoele, a pelvic peritonitis, or even an extra-uterine pregnancy. Over-lactation, to avoid the dreaded accident of motherhood, is not only a very fruitful source of disease in women, but it very seriously compromises the health of the child; for it causes rachitis, cholera infantum, and the wasting diseases of children. On the other hand, if the mother, when pregnant, continues to nurse her child, in order to bring on an abortion, the child is sure to suffer from the deteriorated milk; and the mother from the double demand upon her vital energies.

In a late discussion before the British Medical Association, in which some of the foremost men of England took part, it was the unanimous verdict, that over-breeding does not produce ill

health so much as efforts to prevent conception (*British Medical Journal*, Aug. 31, 1878). The venerable West accuses "the imperfect performance" of sexual intercourse as one of the frequent causes of uterine engorgement, and of hypertrophy of the cervix (Lecture on Diseases of Women, p. 80). I have seen four remarkable cases of great turgidity of the womb, accompanied by excessive sensitiveness of the cervix, which were due to such practices. Bergeret records nine cases of acute metritis, with two deaths.

Like disorders, from like causes, I have so often seen that, when called to a case of pelvic inflammation, I take for granted that means have been adopted for preventing conception.

"In man," as Barnes very forcibly shows, "the ejaculation of the semen ends his physiological duties; but a woman, to complete the cycle of reproduction, must pass through conception, gestation and parturition." Hence, a disregard for these requirements of her very nature will assuredly predispose to uterine disorders. Marriage, without children, acts like a slow poison on the constitution of most women.

But there is yet another reason, and a very strong moral one, why the wife should not remain childless. There can be no question that the blood of the father mingles with that of the mother through the medium of the child in utero. Hence, the transmission of blood-diseases from husband to wife. Hence the indelible impressions made upon a wife by the father of her offspring—impressions, both mental and physical, which, by character or by resemblance, she often transmits to her children by a second husband. Now, as Dr. J. P. Chesney suggests (*Medical and Surgical Reporter*, Dec. 7, 1872), may not this account for the similarity of character and identity of tastes, and, indeed, for that wonderful personal resemblance which sometimes develops between husband and wife? And does not this requisite alone fulfill the Divine interpretation of 'marriage', that "they are no more twain, but one flesh"?

There are, in fact, no harmless or available means of thwarting nature's plain intention; for, if they should not happen to injure the body, they assuredly will the minds. How im-

moral must be the effect when husband and wife meet, not "to endear each other"—as Jeremy Taylor quaintly puts it—but to adjust accoutrements, to compound antidotes, and to consummate, with prearranged precautions and cold-blooded calculations, a union which, for its perfect mental and physical fruition, should be spontaneous and unrestrained! All these artifices soil the purity of thought, and degrade marriage into a carnal compact which regards alone the needs of the flesh.

Such, then, are my views upon these so-called "misery checks" and "common-sense measures;" and I feel that they cannot be gainsaid. I dare any political economist to show me one innocuous expedient whereby conception can be avoided. I challenge him to name a single preventive plan which will not do damage either to good health or to good morals. Even natural sterility is a curse. Show me a house without children, and, ten to one, you show me an abode dreary in its loneliness, disturbed by jealousy or by estrangement, distasteful from wayward caprice or from unlovable eccentricity. Depend upon it, gentlemen, there are no thornless by-paths by which man can skulk from his moral and physical obligations; no safe stratagems by which he can balk God's first blessing and first command. Therefore, as hygienists, if not as moralists; as physicians if not as patriots; as guardians of the public health, if not as philanthropists, I charge you to frown upon such practices and take a bold stand against them. Else, see to it that in the end you are not held to a strict account for the knowledge you have this day gained.—*Progress*.

"EXCUSE me," said the doctor, as he halted a citizen on the street, "but I have a sure and speedy cure for that mild form of erysipelas in your face. It is only \$1.00 a bottle." "Erysipelas!" howled the other. "I'll warrant a cure in a very few weeks." "You old idiot, don't you know nothing?" shouted the enraged man. "Erysipelas! why, I brought this face on with whisky. Am I to be insulted after working as I have for the last twenty years? Go on, sir, or I'll do you serious injury."—*Ex*.

Surgery.

Exsection of Knee Joint.

OPERATION BY DR. S. F. WILCOX, AT THE LAURA
FRANKLIN HOSPITAL.

GEO. E. HAYS, aet. four years. Father died of phthisis. Had two children besides George, who were healthy.

At eight months of age the right knee was larger than the other, was treated for rheumatism. When eighteen months old was very low with cholera infantum. Was taken to Rockaway and was much improved. The winter after, the knee was put in a plaster splint, which was kept on until two weeks before admission to the hospital, March 9, 1887, when the knee was very much swollen. Extension was applied and cold water applications to the knee to be renewed every hour.

Extension was removed after two weeks because it made the knee painful and "leg sore;" cold water applications renewed and plaster splint applied after a few days. Then Taylor's knee splint was fitted and applied and he walked with it, improving constantly for three weeks. This made his legs sore and was removed, but the knee soon became swollen and there appeared to be some inflammation. Leg was rubbed with a solution of tannic acid and water.

On June 17th plaster splint was applied to knee and Graphites given internally, a five pound weighted shoe was worn during day and extension at night, the child walking well with crutches. On September 14th, a brace was applied to knee for six days; September 25th, thirty minims of phrenic acid was injected in knee and repeated from time to time until October 15th, child being in good health.

After this the condition seemed to grow worse rather than better, up to the present time, when an operation seems imperative, as a last resort.

Operation. The child was anæsthetized, the parts thoroughly scrubbed with soap and water, shaved and Hg Cl². solution 1—2000 allowed to play over the knee.

A semi-circular incision was made from external condyle of the femur (it being the right knee joint) down under the lower border of patella, and up to the inner border of internal condyle. This incision was carried down through the Ligamentum patella, and this including patella, was dissected back, exposing both condyles. The tendon was adherent by strong fibrous attachments and in dissecting it off a large quantity of pus was liberated from beneath the patella. The inferior external and internal articular branches of the popliteal artery were cut, caught and ligated, and the wound washed out with solution Hg Cl². 1—2000. Then the lateral ligaments were cut, and in doing so more pus was liberated. The whole joint was matted together, and bound down by abnormal fibrous tissue. The crucial ligaments were then cut and the diseased synovial membranes, fatty and cellular tissue removed. After washing the wound again with the Hg Cl². solution a small portion of the lower extremity of the femur was sawed off, from within outward on a plane with the condyles. The bone was found to be necrosed, but the outer margins were in a good healthy condition. Then the integument and ligament were dissected back from the head of tibia (after the patella had been removed from upper fragment of the ligaments by cross incisions on the bone). The tibia was also diseased, and a small portion was cut away with amputating saw, from without inward, until nearly through the bone, when it was fractured and trimmed with forceps to avoid lacerating or wounding the popliteal artery or its branches.

An endeavor was made to unite the bones by a single wire suture, but the condition of the bones made it impossible, so the deeper tissues were drawn together by cat-gut sutures. After the wound was thoroughly washed with Hg Cl². solution two rubber drainage tubes were placed in the wound, then four snell button sutures were used to unite the wounded surfaces, and cat-gut coaptation sutures between these, adjusted the parts nicely. The knee was thoroughly washed with the Hg Cl². solution, all blood carefully cleaned off and then the wound was sprinkled with iodoform powder; while an assistant kept the leg extended Hg Cl². gauze was placed over this,

then a wad of Borated cotton on this, then the thin rubber dressing, then a roller bandage of Hg Cl² gauze. Over this a plaster of Paris bandage was applied, and the child was to be kept under anæsthetics until the plaster had set pretty well.

Dr. Wilcox very kindly explained, that in a case of this kind, where the joint was and had been diseased for some time, when there was subluxation, and when it resisted all treatment, internal and external, as this had, the best and proper thing to do was to produce a synostosis and preserve the limb.

W. A. W.

The Toxic Effects of Iodoform, Cutaneous and Systemic.

BY R. W. TAYLOR, M. D., SURG. TO CHARITY HOSPITAL, NEW YORK.

NEW York Medical Journal, Oct. 1, 1887.—

The practical lessons taught by the collective knowledge of the nature and action of iodoform should be well remembered, and may be concisely stated as follows:

A. *Its use is indicated*: 1. On fresh wounds. 2. On diseased surfaces—gangrenous, chancreoid, phagedenic, syphilitic, tuberculous—and on those slow to take on healthy granulation. 3. On the surface of necrosed bone.

B. *Its use is contra-indicated*: 1. On freshly cut bone. 2. On granulating surfaces. 3. In cases in which it is known or is found to produce toxic effects.

C. *Modes of use*: 1. It should be dusted on the surface lightly and sparingly. 2. In wound-cavities or in the natural cavities as small a quantity as possible should be employed; in the former it is preferable to use it in the form of gauze. 3. It should never be rubbed in with the finger. 4. Its application should be renewed as infrequently as possible. 5. Such aids to absorption as tightly-fitting bandages and impermeable dressings should not be used. 6. Its use should be discontinued as soon as healthy granulations appear. 7. It should not be used coincidentally with any other antiseptic, carbolic acid

especially (Mosetig-Moorhof). It should be used with great caution in the young and the old, in anæmic and neurotic persons, and those suffering from weak heart or Bright's disease, also in very fat and flabby subjects. 9. Should toxic symptoms appear, the iodoform dressing must be promptly and thoroughly removed.

D. The occurrences of anomalous forms of persistent or recurrent eczema in persons who handle or in any way come in contact with the drug, or who use it as an ointment or in suppositories in the vagina or rectum, should cause the physician to suspect the agent as the possible cause.

E. It is most important that the practitioner should exercise a watchful care over all patients for whom he prescribes this agent, and should he observe morbid symptoms, however mild, pointing to the brain, heart or lungs or a tendency to loss of appetite or emaciation, he should cause the discontinuance of its use at once.

F. The treatment of the skin manifestations is similar in all respects to that of the simple eruptions of the same varieties. Systemic poisoning should be treated symptomatically, since we have no specific.

Ward's Island Clinic.

AGAIN we were treated to an excursion to the Ward's Island Hospital. Through the courtesy of the Commissioners of Charities and Correction, the large Department Steamer "Thomas S. Brennan" was put at the disposal of the Faculty of our College and Students. A beautiful day enhanced the pleasure of the sail up the East River through Hell Gate to the Island, where the venerable old steward of the Hospital, Mr. Sutton, received us at the entrance. We soon found our way to the Amphitheatre, where everything was ready for an operation for fibro-myoma of the uterus. A calcium light had been placed beforehand in position, with "Frank" as the manipulator. The patient was placed under ether and the operation performed by Prof. Helmuth in his inimitable style, assisted by Dr. W. T. Helmuth,

Jr., and Drs. Kellogg, Lewis and Chase of the House-staff.

The front seats were all occupied by seniors, although a few middle-class men thought they might squeeze in, but were duly ousted by gentle persuasion. The sail home was pleasant, songs were started and sung with a gusto, and everybody felt that he had spent a pleasant as well as profitable experience.

The Boarding-house Turkey.

THANKSGIVING vacation is over. The fortunate fellows whose homes are not too far from the city could enjoy their turkey with their parents and friends, but what about those whose fate it was to stay here and wrestle with the boarding-house fowl? Can the reader imagine what a New York boarding-house turkey is? The N. Y. b.-h. t. is an animal of tremendous proportions. It is composed of bone, some cartilage-interstitial-reticulated - connective - fibrous-membranous - ligamentous - tendinous - aponeurotic and cartilaginous tissue, epidermis, superficial and deep fascia, muscles which are similar to the sartorius but not quite so long, a neck composed of vertebræ, and a conglomeration of ingredients of unknown compounds known as "stuffing."

This is the New York boarding-house turkey. Can the reader imagine an impecunious medical student tackling one of these birds? The impecunious medical student has had a very light breakfast, supper of night before consisted of tea and a slice of bread, appetite enormous. The bell for dinner rings. I. M. S. answers its call with alacrity. Sits down. Miss Slimmens, the aged boarder, next to his chair, looks her sweetest; Major Sharp's mustache has received an additional dose of bandoline to keep it straighter than ever; everybody looks expectant, because to-day is Thanksgiving day and a turkey is coming with all the "fixings."

At last the supreme moment arrives, the turkey is brought into the dining-room, all necks are craned to get a good glimpse of it, it is deposited in front of Mrs. Spreadwell, the boarding house proprietor and superintending genius.

Everybody admires the grand proportions of the bird, and, with the exception of the ladies present, hopes his waistband is not too tight to stand the pressure which will soon be brought upon it.

The carving begins; Major Sharp receives one leg with a bountiful supply of stuffing, Miss Slimmens the other with a very little breast and less stuffing, Mr. and Mrs. Spreadwell keep the breast with some more stuffing, and the impecunious medical student, what does he get? The skeleton, with very little stuffing. His waistband did not need lengthening that day. He sawed, wished he had an ecraseur to cut off portions of tissue between bony structures, looked for some "soft parts," tried to discover new muscles, not in "Gray," and even looked for cells which go to make up the fibers of the muscular system, but all in vain—his hopes for a good dinner on Thanksgiving day are dashed to pieces; he fills himself with cranberry sauce, potatoes and bread, and hopes that when Christmas vacation comes he will go home to his friends and at least enjoy a square meal once during the winter.

F. D.

ETIOLOGY AND PROPHYLAXIS OF OPHTHALMO-BLENORRHOEA IN NEW BORN INFANTS.—(Arch. f. Kinderb. Dr. Haab.) Dr. Haab warmly commends the prophylactic treatment of Crede in new born infants, to wit: A drop of the five per cent. solution of nitrate of silver instilled into each eye as soon as possible after birth. He thinks that the use of this substance is to be approved, not only as a prophylactic but also as a customary means of treatment for purulent connective tissue inflammations. In this respect being preferable to resorcin, chloride water, carbolic acid, salicylic acid, sublimate, benzoate of soda, etc. The favorable results of the use of argentic nitrate as a prophylactic is seen in statistical compilations. Before the employment of Crede's methods seventy-nine per cent. of infants suffered from inflammation of the eye. Since that method has been in use one per cent. have thus suffered. According to Dr. Haab, true blenorrhœa neonatorum can only take place by means of gonorrhœal infec-

tion at time of birth. Lochial secretion or fluor albus never gives rise to this condition.—*Ex.*

BLACK EYE.—There is nothing to compare with the tincture or a strong infusion of capsicum annuum mixed with an equal bulk of mucilage of gum arabic and with the addition of a few drops of glycerine. This should be painted all over the surface with a camel's hair pencil and allowed to dry on—a second and third coating being applied as soon as the first is dry. If taken immediately after the injury is received, this treatment will almost invariably prevent the blackening of the bruised surface. The same remedy has no equal in rheumatic, sore or stiff neck.—*St. Louis Medical and Surgical Journal.*

A CHANCE seldom offered. The stock, fixtures and good will of a Homeopathic Pharmacy, in central location in New York city, for sale; established over three years. Expenses light. Party understanding business sure to succeed. Address H. T. A., care of H. T. Bradley, 45 Water street, New York city.

College Notes.

C. C. BOYLE, '77, has removed to 36 East Twenty-first street.

W. F. HONAN and **C. H. Lewis** are doing the dissecting this year for Prof. Doughty.

ALL those who did not flunk in Prof. Dillows' quiz will please rise, and remain standing until counted.

I. TOWNSEND, '87, has been appointed assistant house physician to the Five Points House of Industry.

A. W. BERGEN, '87, has been appointed a member of the staff of the Ward's Island Homeopathic Hospital, this city.

N. H. LEWIS, who entered the College with '78, but did not graduate on account of ill health of near relatives, has joined '89.

BAUER and **Birdsall** are with us again; although they did not inscribe '87 upon their banner, they will try their best to go out with '88.

H. J. KNAPP, '84, was made happy lately by the appearance of his second boy. The father thinks there is no such boy in the United States or elsewhere.

C. E. CAMPBELL, '84, so well remembered by his classmates as the sweet singer from Elmira, has been appointed Surgeon to the 30th Separate Company, N. G. S. N. Y.

AT last '90 concluded to organize. This is the result: President, **G. F. Martin**; Vice-President, **E. A. Foster**; Secretary, **J. H. Bryan**; Treasurer, **J. F. Ackerman**.

W. T. HELMUTH, Jr., has quite recently returned from Europe, while abroad he suffered considerably from a poisonous wound, but he seems to have entirely recovered.

ON account of lack of space in the two preceding numbers, we were compelled to omit a good many college notes, but we will try to do better in the succeeding numbers.

THERE are fifty-one men in our Senior Class this session, but whether they will all bear home triumphantly the coveted sheepskin next spring is a question which is rather difficult to answer.

C. F. RING, '81, **G. H. Reichards** '85 and **G. T. Moseley**, '85, have lately returned from an extended tour in Europe, having spent a portion of their time in the hospitals of Vienna and Berlin.

O. L. JENKINS, '75, of Plainfield, N. J., made a visit to the College a few days ago, and was highly pleased with the numerous changes and alterations which have taken place since he was a student.

F. A. FAUST, '86 now located at Poughkeepsie, brought a very interesting case to Prof. Helmut's clinic. He informs us that his former companion in many exploits, **J. W. Telford**, is located in Larned, Kansas.

AT the organization of the "Farrington Medical Club," of Watertown, N. Y., **Dr. S. C.**

Knickerbocker was elected President ; W. T. Laird, '72, Vice-President ; and M. M. Adams, '85, Secretary and Treasurer.

DR. W. H. DICKINSON (New York Homœopathic Medical College, '65) has been elected president of the Iowa State Board of Medical Examiners. We believe the Doctor is the only homœopath holding this position.

WINANS is coming to the front in great shape. Prof. Danforth's first question addressed to the class at large, being answered by him, but in explanation it might be added that it referred to ship building rather than medicine

WE are pained to hear of the severe sickness of Prof. G. W. Blodgett, '77. He went to South Carolina several months ago, but returned without having derived any benefit from the warmer climate. We hope to hear of his recovery at an early date.

OUR dignified Janitor, Frank, was again the recipient of a handsome turkey for his Thanksgiving dinner. When College opened after the vacation he seemed to have gained flesh immensely, and we would like to know whether this change was brought about by the turkey or whether it was caused by the amount of fixings, such as grapes, nuts, apples, almonds, etc., which accompanied it.

THE following notice has been posted on the bulletin board : The faculty of the New York Homœopathic Medical College and Hospital, after a careful consideration of the subject, and in accordance with the opinion of its legal adviser, have unanimously decided that a THESIS *will not*, in future, be required as a condition to receive the degree of Doctor of Medicine.

(signed)

TIMOTHY F. ALLEN, M.D., LL.D.,

DEAN.

DURING the last two months the following operations were witnessed and assisted by sections of the Senior Class at the Laura Franklin, Hahnemann Hospital and Helmuth House :

LAURA FRANKLIN HOSPITAL.

Removal of enlarged cervical glands by Prof. Wilcox	
Excision of knee joint,	" "
" elbow joint,	" "

Excision of hip joint,	Dr. Fulton
Operation for hypertrophy of lip,	Prof. Wilcox
Excision of tibia,	Dr. Fulton

HELMUTH HOUSE.

Amputation at upper third of humerus,	Prof. Helmuth
Nephrolithiasis,	" "
Phymosis,	" "
Plastic operation upon the nose,	" "

HAHNEMANN HOSPITAL.

Excision of hip joint,	Prof. Wilcox
Fistula in ano,	" "
Operation for lacerated perineum and cystocele,	" "
Operation for lacerated cervix,	Prof. McDonald

Marriages.

MARRIAGE bells sounded pleasantly during the last two months, not less than nine of our Alumni joining the holy state of matrimony. Prof. M. Deschere, '75, to Miss Olga Richard ; Prof. E. V. Moffat, '79, to Miss Wellington ; Prof. W. W. Blackman, '77, to Miss L. C. Jackson ; D. R. Atwell, '85, to Miss B. A. Middleton ; J. L. Hiller, '86, formerly of Washington, D. C., now located at 123 West Eighty-seventh street, this city, to Miss N. M. Yetter ; W. J. Shrewsbury, '81, to Miss Mitchell ; J. I. Lane, '83, to Miss Annie Haring ; C. A. Ward, '87, to Miss A. L. Ford ; and W. M. Decker, '79, to Miss Bessie Smith. Our best wishes go with them for their future happiness.

~IN MEMORIAM~

BANKS F. YOUNG, M. D.

WHEREAS, the Hahnemannian Society of the New York Homœopathic Medical College has learned with great regret of the death of Dr. Banks F. Young, of Syracuse, N. Y., a member of this society, and a graduate of the Class of '87,

Resolved, That in the death of Dr. Young we have suffered the loss of one whom we as under-graduates remember as a genial companion, a generous fellow-student, and a warm-hearted friend, whose early and sudden death has given us profound sorrow,

Resolved, That we extend to the family of our late friend our heartfelt sympathy, trusting that they may receive from the Great Source of comfort and consolation the strength that all need in such bereavements,

Resolved, That a copy of these resolutions be sent to the family of Dr. Young, and that they be published in THE CHIRONIAN.

EDWARD SMITH,
D. H. MCGRAW,
H. S. JONES.

NEW YORK, NOV. 21, 1887.

EVERY student who knew the late Dr. G. M. Smith felt sad and depressed when the news of his sudden death was reported at the College on November 8th. At the Hahnemannian Society meeting on the evening following, a committee was appointed to prepare suitable resolutions for adoption by the Society and publication.

Whereas, It has pleased Him who "doeth all things well" to remove from among us our friend and class-mate, Dr. G. M. Smith, be it

Resolved, That we extend to the parents who are so sorrow-stricken our sympathy in their affliction : and be it further

Resolved, That these resolutions be spread on the minutes of the Hahnemannian Society, and published in THE CHIRONIAN.

(signed)

R. E. HINMAN,
F. M. CUMMINS,
C. A. GWYNN,
Committee.

Book Notices.

Transactions of the Fortieth Session of the American Institute of Homœopathy.

WE congratulate the editor, Dr. Burgher, on the appearance of this voluminous work. It contains so much that is new and valuable to the working physician that he should by all means place it on the table, as a valuable work of reference. The report of the Bureau of Organization, Registration of Statistics is a most complete affair and greatly adds to the value of the work as a reference volume. The typo-

graphical appearance of the book is also a cause for congratulation, being uniform with previous volumes.

Clinical Materia Medica. E. A. Farrington, M. D. Revised by S. Lilienthal, M. D. Boericke and Tafel : New York and Philadelphia.

THE students of Materia Medica are greatly to be congratulated that the lectures of the late lamented Dr. Farrington are given them in such a presentable manner.

The arrangement of the drugs under their different natural order is equal to doing one-third of the work for the systematic student. The old-fashioned manner of studying a drug by memorizing its different symptoms is wasted work, simply habituating one to a groping about in the dark. Here we have them in groups as they naturally belong ; and as Dr. Wesselhœft says in his pamphlet, "*How to Study Materia Medica*": "If you have carefully studied one member of a family of plants, you will already have learned much concerning all the others."

Of course the manner in which these facts are related adds much to the charm of the work. Dr. Farrington was one of those gifted men who were born to teach, and the text reads as easily as if spoken to you—clear, lucid and comprehensive, in a manner that will delight the heart of the hard-pushed student.

But one of the great features we have not yet mentioned, that is the admirable comparisons that follow all prominent or peculiar symptoms of a drug giving others that have the same symptom and the manner of differentiating between the two in the choice of a remedy. Here the work is simply invaluable to the student as well as practitioner.

AN abstract from an article by A. D. Rockwell, A.M., M.D. "Kidder's induction coils are unique in construction, and of unsurpassed efficiency in the treatment of those morbid conditions, for which the foradic current is indicated. The varying qualities of current proceeding from these coils possess a differential value of no little importance, and are worthy a more careful investigation by those interested in electro-therapy than has yet been given them."